

(ABC 6 NEWS) -- Nearly \$500 million in federal stimulus money funded more than 200 state road projects. That's according to a new study out today, by non-partisan think tank Minnesota 2020. But some say more work needs to be done.

"We need Minnesota to start investing in Minnesota," says Michael Wojcik, Rochester city council member.

A new push to put more money into roads and infrastructure in the state of Minnesota.

"We know that we have projects here that will contribute to the long-term growth of the state, but we need to fund them," says Wojcik.

Several local projects including the nearly \$13 million "Bridges of Mower County" project and Fourth Street bridge in Rochester were funded in part by federal stimulus dollars.

Minnesota 2020 released a study Wednesday showing despite criticism of the Obama administration, the federal stimulus package worked, creating 60,000 jobs in Minnesota. But it says that's not enough, and wants the state legislature to pass a \$1 billion off-year bonding bill.

"1,000 deficient bridges in the state, we've got roads deteriorating in sight...as our new leaders cut 6 billion dollars from the operating budget next year that's going to cost a lot of jobs that means a lot of people are going to be laid off and the way to counterbalance that is with some of the infrastructure that we've neglected for so long," says Conrad deFiebre, transportation policy fellow for Minnesota 2020

But some people say more spending is a bad idea.

"Even if we have better roads and better infrastructure I mean yeah we get something for it but we have to pay for it in the end, there's no free lunch," says Bruce Kaskubar, co-chair of the Olmsted County Republican Party.

As construction continues on the Fourth Street bridge, Minnesota 2020 members hope more projects like this will take place.

Local leaders in Rochester say if a bonding bill is passed, they hope to use some to expand the Mayo Civic Center and create a long-overdue interchange on 65th Street Northwest.